

FIPS SQL standard, and used at the discretion of individual Federal procurements, no transitional period or delayed effective date is necessary.

11.2 Acquisition. All conforming implementations of a specific SQL/ERI profile will support some aspects of the FIPS SQL standard. However, such implementations will not normally be full function database management systems and conformance will often be dependent upon SQL schema definitions and other requirements provided as part of each individual procurement. In most cases, a procurement will not be able to simply point to an SQL/ERI profile and demand conformance to it. Instead, successful procurements will normally use an appropriate SQL/ERI profile, together with an application-specific schema definition, as one aspect of overall procurement requirements. In many cases, vendors of products that provide a limited SQL interface will define their interfaces in terms of a fixed SQL schema definition. In those cases, procurements can point to the vendor-provided schema definition and to an appropriate SQL/ERI profile as a procurement requirement. In some cases, especially in those situations where schema definitions and requirements are not known in advance, a request for a proposal (RFP) may require that an SQL schema, and adherence to one of the SQL/ERI Server profiles, be presented as part of the response proposal.

11.3 Interpretation. NIST provides for the resolution of questions regarding specifications and requirements of the FIPS for SQL Environments, and issues official interpretations as needed. Procedures for interpretations are specified in FIPS PUB 29-3. All questions about the interpretation of FIPS SQL Environments should be addressed to: Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, Attn: SQL Environments, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Telephone: (301) 975-2833.

11.4 Validation. Implementations of the FIPS for SQL Environments may be validated in accordance with NIST Computer Systems Laboratory (CSL) validation procedures for FIPS SQL (FIPS PUB 127). Recommended procurement terminology for validation of FIPS SQL is contained in the U.S. General Services Administration publication *Federal ADP & Telecommunications Standards Index*, Chapter 4 Part 2. This GSA publication provides terminology for three validation options: Delayed Validation, Prior Validation Testing, and Prior

Validation. The agency may select the appropriate validation option and may specify appropriate time frames for validation and correction of nonconformities.

Implementations may be evaluated using the NIST SQL Test Suite, a suite of automated validation tests for SQL implementations. Although this test suite was designed to test conformance of full-function SQL database management systems, it can be modified to accommodate testing of SQL/ERI Server implementations. The results of validation testing by the SQL Testing Service are published on a quarterly basis in the *Validated Products List*, available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

Current information about the NIST SQL Validation Service and the status of validation testing for SQL Environments is available from: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Computer Systems Laboratory, Software Standards Validation Group, Building 225, Room A266, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, (301) 975-2490.

12. Where to Obtain Copies. Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161, telephone 703-487-4650. When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 193 (FIPSPUB193), SQL Environments. Payment may be made by check, money order, or deposit account

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Workshop on National Voluntary Conformity Assessment Systems Evaluation (NVCASE) Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This is to advise the public that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will conduct a workshop to brief interested parties on the NVCASE program and to review documents that will be used as the generic basis for requirements of the operational program. The workshop will be in two parts:

(1) A briefing on the purpose and operation of the NVCASE program: the presentation will proceed step-by-step through the procedures set forth in the April 22, 1994 **Federal Register** Notice (15 CFR part 286); and

(2) A review of present and proposed international documents that will be

used as the generic basis for program requirements.

The public is encouraged to call to NIST's attention documents useful for this purpose.

DATES: The workshop will be held Thursday, March 9, 1995, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration will start at 9:30 am.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held in the Green Auditorium at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: (1) For administrative and logistic information, contact Ms. Marilyn Stream, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 417, Room 107, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; Phone: (301) 975-4029. Fax: (301) 963-2871. (2) For information concerning the NVCASE program contact Mr. Robert Gladhill, Program Manager, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 417, Room 107, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; Phone: (301) 975-4273. Fax: (301) 963-2871. (3) For information on how to obtain copies of the documents, contact the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, New York 10036, USA; Phone: (212) 642-4900. Fax: (212) 398-0023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) offers a voluntary program on a fee-for-service basis to evaluate the competence of conformity assessment activities.

The National Voluntary Conformity Assessment Systems Evaluation (NVCASE) Program may be applied to activities related to laboratory testing, product certification, and quality system registration. NVCASE evaluates and provides official recognition to qualifying bodies in the United States that effectively demonstrate that they satisfy established criteria and applicable regulatory requirements of other countries.

NVCASE recognition (1) provides other governments with a basis for having confidence that qualifying U.S. conformity assessment bodies are competent, and (2) promotes the acceptance of U.S. products in regulated foreign markets based on U.S. conformity assessment results.

NVCASE offers evaluation services to support U.S. trade in regulated foreign markets, but not for domestic applications. NVCASE does not unilaterally establish program areas. All requests to establish evaluation services in a specific product sector are first published for public advice and comment. If another U.S. Government

agency has domestic regulatory responsibility for that sector, the cognizant agency is consulted prior to any program action by NIST.

A U.S. regulatory agency may, at its discretion, defer evaluation and recognition of conformity assessment activities related to foreign trade to NVCASE, or may itself perform required evaluation activities. In the event of deferral to NVCASE, the regulatory agency fully retains its domestic authority and responsibility for the product sector.

NVCASE recognition may be obtained for different levels of activity. For example, a body may be recognized to accredit other bodies, (e.g., an accreditor of laboratories, or of certifiers, or of registrars). If accreditation is not available elsewhere, a body may be accredited directly by NVCASE to perform some specific function (e.g., to certify specific products, or as a quality system registrar).

The NVCASE evaluation process requires that a body provide sufficient information to allow thorough evaluation of its management system and operations. The criteria used are based on internationally accepted requirements.

Prior to obtaining recognition, each participant must undergo an initial on-site assessment by qualified assessors. Any elements of non-conformance must be resolved prior to the granting of recognition. Once recognition has been granted, follow-up assessments are conducted on a regular basis, along with periodic surveillance visits, both announced and unannounced. NVCASE recognition is effective until either voluntary or involuntary termination.

NVCASE listings of all recognized bodies include the name, address, pertinent contacts, and the scope of recognition. NVCASE also maintains listings of qualified bodies that have been accredited or otherwise approved by a NVCASE-recognized accreditor (but only within the scope and period of recognition of the accreditor), indicating they are traceable to NIST via the NVCASE-recognized body. All listings are freely disseminated and available to the public through various media.

In the event that a recognized body is found not to conform with the established criteria, NVCASE will terminate the recognition and delist the body. NIST will no longer assure that body's conformity assessment activities are competent.

If the body is of a type which accredits or otherwise approves other groups (e.g., an accreditation body that accredits laboratories), these accredited groups (e.g., laboratories) may be

delisted and lost their traceability to NIST.

However, if the accredited groups were not involved in the circumstances that led to the termination of recognition of the accreditation body, NVCASE will consider granting a grace period during which accreditation can be obtained from another NVCASE-recognized accreditation body prior to being delisted. To the extent that one or more accredited bodies were affected by the circumstances which lead to the termination of recognition of the accrediting body, all those involved will be immediately delisted.

Bodies that have had their NVCASE recognition terminated may regain recognition if and when they can demonstrate conformance with all requirements.

As indicated, the NVCASE Program intends to rely on and utilize international conformity assessment documents such as those developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Committee on Conformity Assessment. These documents adopted jointly by ISO and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) are as follows:

- ISO/IEC Guide 25, "General Requirements for the Competence of Calibration and Testing Laboratories," Third edition; 1990;
- ISO/IEC Guide 58, "Calibration and Testing Laboratory Accreditation Systems—General Requirements for Operation and Recognition," First edition, 1993;

In addition, under consideration for adoption are:

- ISO/CASCO 226 (rev. 2), "General requirements for certification or registration body assessment and accreditation systems";
- ISO/CASCO 227 (rev. 2), "General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems";
- ISO/CASCO 228 (rev. 2), "General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems" (or currently available equivalent).

ISO/IEC guides are used as a basis for many conformity assessment activities at international, regional and national levels and have been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the U.S. member body to ISO.

Dated: January 31, 1995.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 013095B]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Salmon Technical Team will hold a public meeting on February 14-17, 1995, at the Council office, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR; telephone: (503) 326-6352. The meeting will begin on February 14, at 10:00 a.m., and will continue each day from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for the remainder of the week.

The purpose of this meeting is to draft the 1995 stock status report, "Preseason I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 1995 Ocean Salmon Fisheries." The final report will be distributed to the public and reviewed by the Council at its March meeting in South San Francisco.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Coon, Fishery Management Coordinator (Salmon), Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201; telephone: (503) 326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Michelle Perry Sailer at (503) 326-6352, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 30, 1995.

David S. Crestin,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to procurement list.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List commodities and services to be